

INFORMATION LETTER

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Not for
Publication

For Members
Only

No. 616

Washington, D. C.

August 29, 1936

CROP CONDITIONS

Rains In Various Districts Improve Prospects for Some Late Season Crops

WISCONSIN.—Heavy rains in the past ten days have slightly improved yield prospects for corn, tomatoes and beans, but so far as tomatoes are concerned much depends on date of the first killing frost. Quality of early sweet corn is fair and yield is estimated at possibly 25 to 30 per cent of normal.

IOWA-NEBRASKA.—Scattering rains and lower temperatures have improved yields of white varieties of corn. The condition of the crop is spotted and irregular and the pack is estimated at about 40 per cent of last year. The early tomato crop was a total failure, but the present condition of late tomatoes promises a yield almost normal unless caught by an early frost.

OZARKS.—Hot, dry weather still prevails in this area and no rain has fallen since early June. It is now too late to plant beans for a fall crop, and it is not expected that the pack of tomatoes will be over half a million cases, even with cooler weather during September.

OHIO.—Yellow corn is yielding near the average in cream style, but there is little or no whole grain being packed. Country Gentleman is very poor. Tomato prospects in this area are fair.

INDIANA.—Southern Indiana still lacks rainfall. Elsewhere tomato crop prospects are better, although showers and heat last week caused considerable damage. Late corn is showing some improvement.

ILLINOIS.—Some whole grain corn is being packed; yields are fair. Rains in north central sections came too late to be of real benefit.

MINNESOTA.—Parts of this territory in which conditions have improved are securing yields of 35 to 40 cases of corn per acre. Pack in other regions is estimated to be not over 40 per cent of normal.

NEW YORK.—Rains during the past few days have improved conditions somewhat and if frosts do not occur until reasonably late, it is estimated that the corn crop may be 50 to 55 per cent of normal and the tomato crop 75 to 80 per cent of normal.

MAINE.—Conditions in this area continue better than elsewhere and while they are spotty as to location and condition of the corn itself, reports indicate a good crop on the whole. Pack is not expected to equal that of bumper years, however.

MARYLAND.—Parts of this area report satisfactory yields of Evergreen and Golden Bantam corn and prospects for tomatoes and beans are good. Early beans in favored localities are running about 150 cases to the acre and tomato yields are good. Other portions of the state, however, are not in as satisfactory condition.

Registration of Products in Louisiana

The Bureau of Food and Drugs of the Louisiana State Department of Health has advised canners, under date of August 10th, that no special rules or regulations had yet been adopted under the authority of the new State Food, Drugs and Cosmetic Law, but that compliance with the Federal rules and regulations relating to the products would be satisfactory.

With reference to the registration of products, the Bureau of Food and Drugs states that it is necessary to make only one registration for each separate product regardless of the grades, varieties, size of package or brand under which sold. For example, canned corn would be a distinct product, similarly canned tomatoes, etc. In submitting labels, the Bureau says, one label for each product will be sufficient where the same general label is used.

The general provisions of the new Louisiana law were summarized in the INFORMATION LETTER for August 8th.

Rulings On Motor Carrier Act

The Bureau of Motor Carriers, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, is issuing administrative rulings on the Motor Carrier Act in response to questions propounded by the public. These rulings, it is explained by the Bureau, may be taken to indicate what is deemed by the Bureau to be the correct application and interpretation of the Act, but they are tentative and provisional and are made in the absence of authoritative decisions upon the subject by the Commission.

One of the 23 rulings issued to date was based on the question, "Are canned fruits and vegetables manufactured products of agricultural commodities?" The ruling is as follows:

"Canned fruits and vegetables are manufactured products of agricultural commodities and are therefore not exempt commodities within the meaning of Section 203 (b) (6)."

Section 203 (b) provides for certain exemptions from all provisions of the Act except those relating to qualifications, maximum hours, safety of operation, and standards of equipment, and Section 203 (b) (6) specified as so exempt "motor vehicles used exclusively in carrying livestock, fish (including shell fish), or agricultural commodities (not including manufactured products thereof)."

GOVERNMENT CROP REPORTS

Summary of Conditions On August 15th As Reported To Agricultural Economics Bureau

Estimates of the production of various canning crops, based upon their condition on August 15th, have been issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The

final yield and production will depend, of course, upon weather and other conditions subsequent to that date. The reports are here summarized in order that canners may have comparative data on conditions in the different states on August 15th.

Sweet Corn

According to the August 15 reports on condition and probable yield per acre, prospective production of sweet corn for manufacture declined less than 3 per cent from the forecast on August 1. The August 15 condition of the crop indicates a total production of 521,500 tons for 1936 compared with 859,900 tons produced in 1935 and with a 5-year average (1928-1932) of 628,000 tons.

No further extensive deterioration to the crop occurred during the first two weeks in August except in Iowa, Wisconsin and Nebraska where drought conditions further reduced prospects. Conditions on August 15 point to an average yield per acre of 1.23 tons, which is the lowest per acre yield on records which date to 1918.

| State | Acreage | | Production | | 1936 Indicated |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------------------|
| | Harvested 1935 | Planted 1936 | 1935 | 1936 | |
| | Acres | Acres | Tons | Tons | |
| Maine | 14,700 | 16,300 | 50,000 | 55,400 | |
| New Hampshire | 950 | 820 | 2,700 | 2,200 | |
| Vermont | 1,150 | 1,350 | 3,100 | 3,400 | |
| New York | 21,000 | 25,000 | 50,400 | 32,500 | |
| Pennsylvania | 6,400 | 6,500 | 10,200 | 11,700 | |
| Ohio | 26,400 | 27,800 | 55,400 | 22,200 | |
| Indiana | 49,700 | 52,000 | 84,500 | 36,400 | |
| Illinois | 90,000 | 92,000 | 198,000 | 110,400 | |
| Michigan | 6,000 | 8,460 | 7,200 | 5,900 | |
| Wisconsin | 17,100 | 19,800 | 42,800 | 13,900 | |
| Minnesota | 66,000 | 76,600 | 151,800 | 91,900 | |
| Iowa | 48,000 | 47,000 | 105,600 | 42,300 | |
| Nebraska | 5,000 | 4,800 | 4,500 | 1,000 | |
| Delaware | 2,800 | 2,800 | 7,300 | 7,000 | |
| Maryland | 33,600 | 31,000 | 60,500 | 58,900 | |
| Tennessee | 3,100 | 3,100 | 7,100 | 7,400 | |
| Other States* | 9,600 | 10,240 | 18,800 | 19,000 | |
| Total | 401,500 | 425,570 | 859,900 | 521,500 | |

* "Other States" include Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

Tomatoes

August 15 reports from the canners of the country show little change in the general tomato crop situation since August 1. Total production is now estimated at 1,720,800 tons compared with 1,689,000 tons in 1935, and the 5-year (1928-32) average production of 1,293,200 tons.

Favorable growing weather during the first two weeks of August improved tomato crop prospects generally in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee and Colorado. Yield prospects which were relatively poor in the Ozarks on August 1, declined still further on August 15 and canners in this area report that the severe drought has killed many of the vines. A continuation of the drought brought slight declines in prospective yields in Kentucky, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and New York.

The average yield indicated by August 15 conditions is 3.77 tons per acre compared with 3.60 tons in 1935 and 4.21 tons, the average for the 10-year period (1923-32).

| State | Acreage | | Production | | 1936 Indicated |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | Harvested 1935 | Planted 1936 | 1935 | 1936 | |
| | Acres | Acres | Tons | Tons | |
| New York | 19,000 | 19,750 | 131,100 | 94,800 | |
| New Jersey | 32,600 | 36,000 | 163,000 | 187,200 | |
| Pennsylvania | 10,300 | 12,600 | 48,400 | 63,000 | |
| Ohio | 17,000 | 18,000 | 81,600 | 102,600 | |
| Indiana | 97,300 | 98,300 | 321,100 | 334,200 | |
| Illinois | 13,800 | 14,100 | 33,100 | 28,200 | |
| Michigan | 3,750 | 4,500 | 15,800 | 24,800 | |
| Iowa | 7,000 | 6,400 | 11,200 | 12,200 | |
| Missouri | 18,000 | 16,560 | 18,000 | 8,300 | |
| Delaware | 14,400 | 13,000 | 49,000 | 46,800 | |
| Maryland | 64,300 | 56,100 | 225,000 | 207,600 | |
| Virginia | 25,000 | 16,000 | 90,000 | 44,800 | |
| Kentucky | 7,900 | 6,300 | 15,800 | 10,700 | |
| Tennessee | 10,400 | 7,800 | 21,800 | 15,600 | |
| Arkansas | 22,000 | 17,750 | 24,200 | 8,900 | |
| Colorado | 3,200 | 3,500 | 17,000 | 26,200 | |
| Utah | 6,200 | 7,000 | 31,600 | 60,900 | |
| California | 69,650 | 76,120 | 313,400 | 380,600 | |
| Other States* | 26,830 | 26,090 | 77,900 | 63,400 | |
| Total | 468,630 | 455,870 | 1,689,000 | 1,720,800 | |

* "Other States" include Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Cabbage for Sauerkraut

The drought has caused considerable acreage abandonment and has lowered yield prospects in all commercially important areas. The August 15 condition of kraut cabbage was 50.7 per cent of normal which is the lowest condition of record (since 1926). Last year the condition was 84.8 per cent on August 15 and the average for the 7-year period (1926-32) is 77.9 per cent of normal.

Snap Beans

During the first two weeks in August the prospective production of snap beans for manufacture declined about 4 per cent—and is now approximately 20 per cent less than the 1935 crop. Canners' condition reports as of August 15 indicate a total production of 65,200 tons compared with 81,500 tons in 1935 and the 5-year (1928-32) average production of 73,100 tons.

Conditions on August 15 point to an average yield per acre of 1.20 tons compared with 1.64 tons for 1935 and the 10-year (1923-32) average yield of 1.58 tons. There is still some uncertainty regarding the late planted crop in many States where the drought is still severe. Spotted yields marked the early August harvest in the north central States and New York, with low yields reported in the drought areas. Improvement in prospects were reported from widely scattered States with Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Colorado and Utah reporting slightly higher yields than were indicated on August 1.

| State | Acreage | | Production | | State | August 15, 1935 | August 15, 1936 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Harvested 1935 Acres | Planted 1936 Acres | 1935 Tons | 1936 Indicated Tons | | Per cent | Per cent |
| Maine | 950 | 950 | 2,700 | 2,300 | New York | 76 | 65 |
| New York | 7,400 | 7,900 | 12,600 | 9,500 | New Jersey | 65 | 50 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,710 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 | Indiana | 75 | 50 |
| Indiana | 3,500 | 2,500 | 3,800 | 1,000 | Michigan | 90 | 55 |
| Michigan | 4,850 | 5,700 | 8,700 | 4,000 | Wisconsin | 80 | 43 |
| Wisconsin | 6,300 | 6,200 | 10,100 | 4,300 | Oregon | 70 | 90 |
| Delaware | 1,000 | 900 | 1,400 | 1,100 | Other States | 77 | 61 |
| Maryland | 9,500 | 10,000 | 13,300 | 13,000 | Average | 77.4 | 57.5 |
| South Carolina | 350 | 500 | 400 | 200 | KRAUT CABBAGE | | |
| Tennessee | 1,200 | 1,600 | 1,800 | 800 | New York | 86 | 45 |
| Mississippi | 1,540 | 1,800 | 1,200 | 1,300 | Ohio | 82 | 60 |
| Arkansas | 1,500 | 2,000 | 1,500 | 800 | Indiana | 85 | 30 |
| Louisiana | 580 | 700 | 600 | 600 | Illinois | 80 | 25 |
| Colorado | 1,100 | 900 | 2,900 | 2,200 | Michigan | 85 | 60 |
| Utah | 580 | 700 | 1,900 | 2,100 | Wisconsin | 85 | 50 |
| Washington | 760 | 770 | 2,000 | 2,600 | Minnesota | 80 | 30 |
| Oregon | 1,100 | 1,300 | 6,200 | 6,000 | Colorado | 90 | 85 |
| California | 540 | 640 | 2,800 | 3,200 | Washington | 87 | 70 |
| Other States * | 5,130 | 6,460 | 5,600 | 7,200 | Other States | 84 | 66 |
| Total | 49,590 | 54,320 | 81,500 | 65,200 | Average | 84.8 | 50.7 |

* "Other States" include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Green Lima Beans

The August 15 condition was 77.3 per cent of normal compared with 80.6 a year ago and 64.9 per cent, the average for the 3-year period (1930-32).

Beets

Reported condition on August 15 was 57.5 per cent of normal. This compares with 77.4 per cent of normal on August 15, 1935.

Cucumbers for Pickles

August 15 reports indicate a condition of 60.6 per cent of normal compared with 78.8 per cent on August 15, 1935 and an average for the 6-year period (1926-31) of 67.1 per cent for August 15.

Condition by States

Following are figures on the condition on August 15th of canning crops other than those for which the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued estimates of production:

| State | August 15, 1935 | August 15, 1936 |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Per cent | Per cent |
| LIMA BEANS | | |
| New Jersey | 75 | 85 |
| Michigan | 83 | 55 |
| Delaware | 81 | 85 |
| Maryland | 80 | 85 |
| Virginia | 90 | 85 |
| Other States | 74 | 62 |
| Average | 80.6 | 77.3 |

| State | BEETS | August 15, 1935 | August 15, 1936 |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Per cent | Per cent | |
| New York | 76 | 65 | |
| New Jersey | 65 | 50 | |
| Indiana | 75 | 50 | |
| Michigan | 90 | 55 | |
| Wisconsin | 80 | 43 | |
| Oregon | 70 | 90 | |
| Other States | 77 | 61 | |
| Average | 77.4 | 57.5 | |
| KRAUT CABBAGE | | | |
| New York | 86 | 45 | |
| Ohio | 82 | 60 | |
| Indiana | 85 | 30 | |
| Illinois | 80 | 25 | |
| Michigan | 85 | 60 | |
| Wisconsin | 85 | 50 | |
| Minnesota | 80 | 30 | |
| Colorado | 90 | 85 | |
| Washington | 87 | 70 | |
| Other States | 84 | 66 | |
| Average | 84.8 | 50.7 | |
| PICKLE CUCUMBERS | | | |
| Massachusetts | 80 | 75 | |
| New York | 90 | 65 | |
| Ohio | 60 | 64 | |
| Indiana | 89 | 55 | |
| Illinois | 69 | 65 | |
| Michigan | 80 | 62 | |
| Wisconsin | 75 | 50 | |
| Minnesota | 64 | 36 | |
| Iowa | 75 | 51 | |
| Missouri | 60 | 30 | |
| Maryland | 68 | 75 | |
| Virginia | 74 | 42 | |
| North Carolina | 87 | 75 | |
| Louisiana | 85 | 90 | |
| Texas | 77 | 42 | |
| Colorado | 92 | 85 | |
| Washington | 74 | 77 | |
| Oregon | 89 | 85 | |
| California | 90 | 95 | |
| Other States | 88 | 75 | |
| Average | 78.8 | 60.6 | |
| PIMENTOS | | | |
| California | 85 | 85 | |
| Georgia | 73 | 60 | |

FOOD SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Government Bureau Issues Special Report On National Situation

Following are excerpts of interest to canners from a special report on the national food supply situation, issued on August 26th by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in which it was stated that the indicated total supply of foods in general for the 12 months ending with June, 1937, is only about 3 per cent below that of 1935-36.

FRUITS.—The production of fresh fruits in the United States is indicated to be the smallest in recent years. * * *

The apple crop is reported to be the smallest since 1921, while the grape crop is the smallest since 1931. Cherries and peaches also are unusually scarce, but pears and citrus fruits promise to be plentiful. * * * The supply of commercially canned fruits probably will be about 5 per cent less than last season, but 2 per cent larger than in 1934-35 and larger than in any of the other recent years. One of the factors contributing to the smaller supply this season is the fact that many Pacific Coast canners did not recover their costs on the large fruit packs of 1935 and are attempting to curtail the pack this year. The quantities of fresh fruit produced for canning are not large, but they appear to be ample for all purposes. Supplies of canned apples, apricots, peaches and cherries are expected to be less than last year, but the supplies of other kinds of canned fruit will be larger.

VEGETABLES.—The supply of vegetables for fresh market shipment is expected to be about the same as last year. The total acreage of vegetables for canning or manufacture for 1936 is estimated to be slightly larger than last year but the yield prospects are much below average. The drought retarded the growth of these vegetables during July and prospective production was curtailed sharply. Whereas, the total supply of the principal canned vegetables for 1936-37 appeared on July 1st to be slightly more than 104,000,000 cases and only slightly below the total supply for 1935-36, by August 1st it declined to 93,000,000 cases.

On the basis of August 1st conditions the total supply of canned vegetables is expected to be 12 per cent less than the large supply in 1935-36 but 16 per cent above that for 1934-35 and 28 per cent above that for 1933-34. The supply of snap beans, beets, sweet corn and peas, is expected to be much below the large supply of these canned vegetables available last year, but the supply of asparagus, spinach, tomatoes and tomato juice is expected to be larger.

New Applicants for Membership

Following is a list of canners making application for membership in the Association since July 18th, when a similar list was published in the Information Letter:

Royal River Packing Corporation, Yarmouth, Maine.
Bond Pickle Co., Oconto, Wisconsin.
Stone-Dwyer, Inc., New Orleans, Louisiana.
C. H. Rice Co., Bangor, Maine.
D. Thompson Swing, Ridgely, Maryland.
Empire Foods Corporation, Ltd., Toronto, Canada.
J. W. Furman, Northumberland, Pennsylvania.
Kremlin Packing Co., Acorn, Virginia.
Anchor Line Packing Co., Seldovia, Alaska.

Article on Resettlement Administration

The Association has from time to time received inquiries regarding the Resettlement Administration, particularly with respect to its policy and activities as they relate to the canning industry. In the *Nation's Business* for August an article by Charles Stevenson presents the results of a study he has made of the Resettlement Administration's general aims and work, which will be of interest to canners.

Rainfall and Temperature Records

The following table gives the average temperature and total rainfall for the principal growing districts for each of the last two weeks, as shown by the U. S. Weather Bureau reports for selected stations in these districts:

| DISTRICT | Week ended Aug. 18, 1936 | | Week ended Aug. 25, 1936 | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| | Temp. | Rain | Temp. | Rain |
| Maine | 71 | .2 | 65 | .7 |
| Western New York | 73 | .1 | 75 | 1.0 |
| Tri-States | 81 | .1 | 82 | .2 |
| South Central Ohio | 79 | .3 | 83 | 1.1 |
| Central Indiana | 83 | .1 | 88 | .0 |
| Central Illinois | 84 | .6 | 88 | .3 |
| Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin | 76 | 1.1 | 78 | 2.2 |
| Southern Minnesota | 77 | .4 | 76 | 1.9 |
| Northern Colorado | 77 | 1.4 | 74 | .2 |
| Northern Utah | 78 | .6 | 77 | .0 |
| Northwestern Washington | 67 | .0 | 66 | .4 |
| Southeastern Washington | 76 | .0 | 71 | .0 |

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

| VEGETABLES | Week ending | | Season total to | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | 1935 | 1936 | 1936 | 1935 | 1936 |
| Beans, snap and lima | 21 | 23 | 35 | 9,501 | 7,902 |
| Tomatoes | 100 | 272 | 198 | 18,835 | 18,807 |
| Green peas | 227 | 173 | 227 | 6,042 | 6,178 |
| Spinach | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5,478 | 7,460 |
| Others, competing directly: | | | | | |
| Domestic | 768 | 672 | 1,878 | 54,954 | 64,840 |
| Imports | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| FRUITS | | | | | |
| Citrus, domestic | 1,869 | 1,360 | 1,501 | 137,581 | 121,312 |
| Imports | 30 | 54 | 37 | 59 | 115 |
| Others, domestic | 5,257 | 4,776 | 3,860 | 31,138 | 35,127 |

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